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(54) TROISIEME MAIN

(54) THIRD HAND

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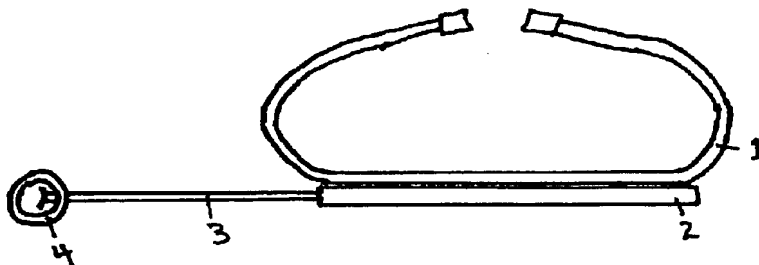


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(12) (19) (CA) **Demande-Application**

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(54) **TROISIEME MAIN**
(54) **THIRD HAND**



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Third Hand: Description

This invention relates to a belt to be worn around a worker's waist and used to support a mortar board with plaster or drywall compound on it. A few accessories allow additional uses by other tradesmen.

Previous ideas for such a product involve a bracket to rest the mortar board on. This bracket is held in place by a belt around the wearer's waist, and a strap around his thigh. This arrangement is awkward and interferes with the worker's movement. Various positions of the worker, including squatting or climbing, may cause the mortar board to tip too severely.

I have found that these disadvantages may be overcome by providing a slider arm in a housing, mounted to the belt horizontally across the wearer's back. The mortar board is held in a holder at the end of the slider, with the slider in the extended position. When not in use, the slider is in the retracted position, conveniently out of the way. The worker can comfortably squat or climb ladders without tipping the mortar board.

In drawings which illustrate embodiments of the invention, Figure 1 is a plan view of one embodiment and Figure 2 is an elevation of this embodiment. Figure 3 is an elevation of this embodiment with a mortar board, with plaster on it, held in the holder. Figure 4 is a plan view of the holder part of this embodiment. Figure 5 is an elevation of the holder part of this embodiment. Figure 6 is a plan view of this embodiment including optional ashtray and tool clips. Figure 7 is an elevation of this embodiment with one accessory, a hook - adapter, in the holder. Figure 8 illustrates another accessory - a clamp adapter. Figure 9 illustrates one possible slider unit cross section.

The belt 1 is wide enough and made of suitably firm material, such as leather or heavy nylon, to support the slider housing 2, horizontally across the wearer's back, as shown in Figure 2. It may optionally include a metal or plastic stiffener plate attached to or sewn into the belt across the area of the wearer's back. The slider arm 3 has at its end, a clamp type holder 4, which serves as a third hand to hold the handle of a mortar board 5, as shown in Figure 3. It has been found that when slider housing 2 is mounted to the belt 1 across the wearer's back, the weight of compound on the mortar board causes the slider unit to sag slightly, giving the mortar board 5 an appropriate angle to hold the compound on it (as seen in Figure 3).

In product development, depending on firmness of the belt, the mounting angle of the slider unit may be adjusted. Alternatively, during product development, the angle of mounting the holder 4 to the slider arm 3 may be adjusted. The slider arm 3 slides inside the slider housing 2 without wheels, as it is unloaded when sliding. The cross section is such that it resists bending or twisting. Figure 9 illustrates one possible cross section. This could change during product development.

To use this product, the worker pulls the holder 4 and slider arm 3 out into the extended position. He pushes the holder 4 in the direction of the arrows in Figure 4, compressing springs 6. This allows the mortar board handle to be placed between the curved plate 7 and the opposite end of the holder tube. The worker then stops pressing on the holder 4. The springs 6 expand and press the handle between the curved plate 7 and the inside of the holder tube, both of which have non-slip surfaces against the handle. This prevents the handle from spinning or tipping and accommodates variations in handle diameter.

In the same fashion, the worker later presses the holder 4, retrieves the mortar board, then releases the holder. He then may return the slider arm to the retracted position.

The belt may be worn with the holder sliding out to the left, as in Figure 1. The product works identically if the worker reverses the direction in which he wears the belt, so that the holder slides out to his right.

The exact design of the buckle is not indicated in the drawings. Any buckle not infringing on other patents can be used.

An optional feature, illustrated in Figure 6, is a series of clips 8, mounted to the slider housing 2, for holding spare putty knives of various sizes. Also in Figure 6 is shown as an optional accessory, an ashtray 9, which can be attached to the holder tube by means of a circular clamp around the holder tube with a lever catch 10.

Another optional accessory is a hook-adaptor with handle 11, hook 12 and flange 13, which can be placed into the holder 4, as shown in Figure 7. A painter or window cleaner may hang a pail on the hook while climbing an extension ladder. In this case one may choose to reverse the direction in which he puts the belt on, so that the holder slides out to his right.

Figure 8 illustrates another accessory, which also can be put into the holder in place of a mortar board handle. This accessory has a universal joint attached to a spring-loaded clamp which may hold a flashlight, pointed in the desired direction.

Fig 1

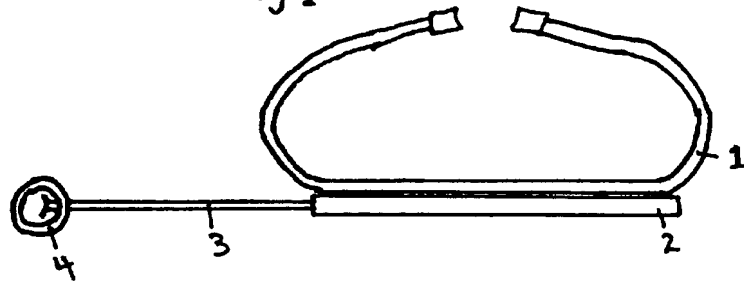


Fig 2

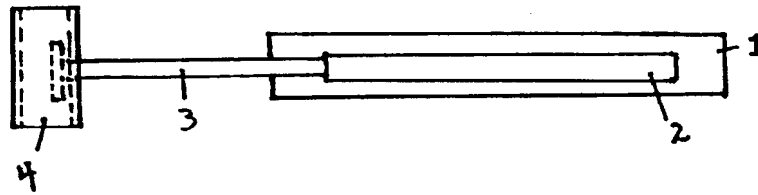


Fig 3

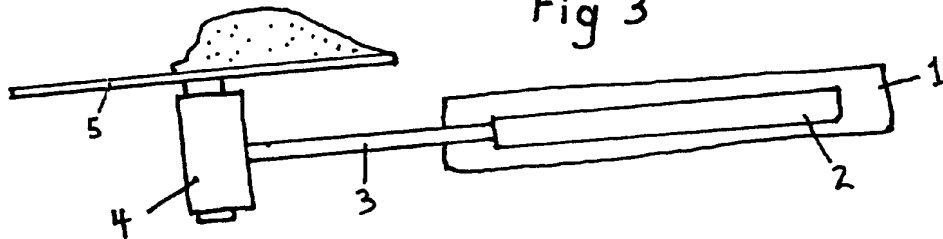


Fig 4

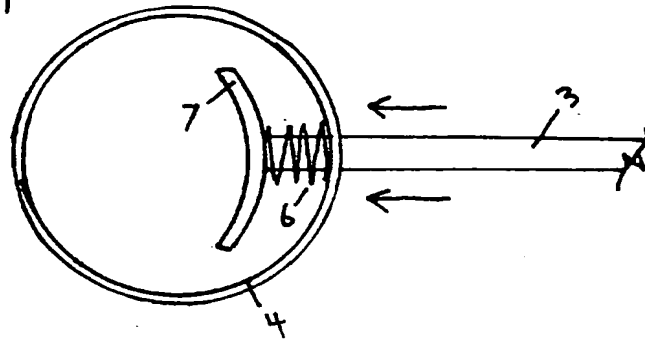


Fig 5

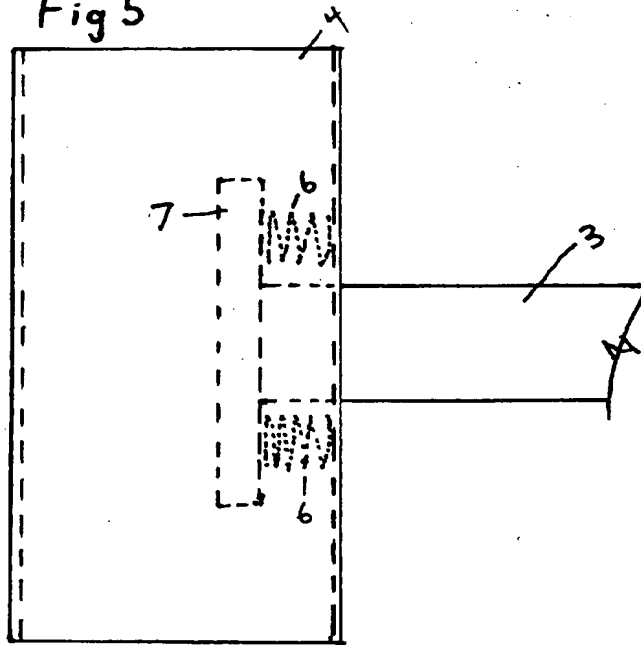


Fig 6

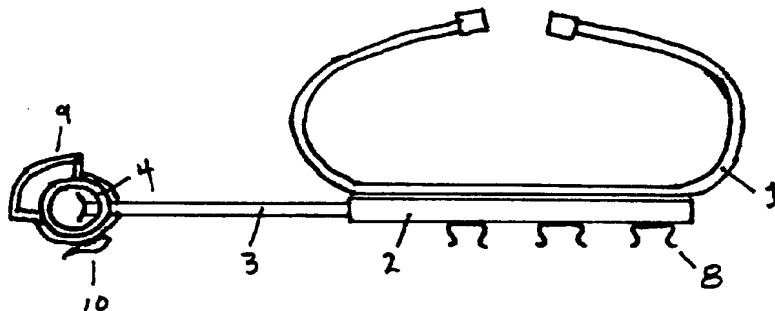


Fig 7

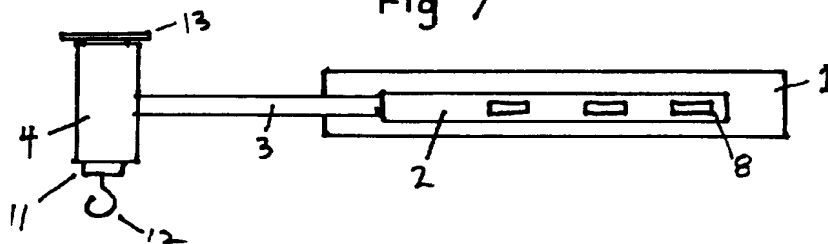


Fig 9



Fig 8

